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Effort to Increase Sage-Grouse Populations Launched in Wyoming Range

Program identified as 'top priority' by Wyoming grouse local working group

Williamsport, Md.—The North American Grouse Partnership (NAGP) recently launched a new, 'top priority' effort studying the greater sage-grouse in southwestern Wyoming to identify and recommend ways to sustain and enhance populations of the bird.

The project aims to create a management plan to increase grouse populations inhabiting the area and formulate a plan to reverse sage-grouse population decline in the Green River Valley, in part by identifying and developing seasonal habitat-use maps.

“This work will enable researchers to recommend sagebrush management options that have proven results,” said John Dahlke of Wyoming Wildlife Consultants, LLC, a private consulting firm from Pinedale implementing the field work and project design.

The Upper Green River Basin Sage-Grouse Local Working Group identified and selected the NAGP program as the top priority for local grouse projects. Additional supporters include the Wyoming Sage-Grouse Conservation Fund, the Bureau of Land Management and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

The program gathers survival and reproductive information by fitting sage-grouse west of Pinedale along the Wyoming Range front with radio-collars to track their daily and seasonal movements. The study will focus on the seasonal needs of sage-grouse, and analyze how the birds use and respond to habitat treatments.

“We expect that this research will provide valuable insights into whether or not long-term beneficial results were achieved by a specific habitat treatment,” said Jim Mosher, North American Grouse Partnership Executive Director.

The NAGP program is the first project funded by the Tom Thorne Sage-Grouse Conservation Fund. The Fund is administered by the Wyoming Community Foundation and was established by Shell Exploration & Production Co.

NAGP works to bring the plight of declining grouse species and their habitats to the attention of the public, provides oversight for the health of grouse populations, implements solutions to the problems causing grouse declines and encourages public policies and management decisions that will enhance important habitats and grouse populations.

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Our mission is to promote the conservation of grouse and the habitats necessary for their survival and reproduction.